

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 EA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAI-01 EB-07

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R 071404Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1926

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/ECJ4/J7 IMMEDIATE

USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE/DO IMMEDIATE

40 TAC GP AVIANO AB ITALY/CC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ROME 9676

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, IT

SUBJECT: FLIGHT TEST EVALUATION OF F-104S

PART 1 FOR SECSTATE AND SECDEF

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND AERITALIA HAVE BEEN MAKING EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO SELL ADDITIONAL F-104S AIRCRAFT TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE PRODUCTION LINE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MRCA IS AVAILABLE OR AN ALTERNATE AIRCRAFT IS CHOSEN. IN THIS REGARD, TWO PILOTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN ITALY THIS WEEK IN ORDER TO MAKE A FLIGHT TEST EVALUATION OF THE F-104S.

2. PRIOR TO THE JUNE ELECTIONS, AERITALIA HAD PLANNED TO UTILIZE THE TORINO/CASELLE FACILITY TO CONDUCT THE FLIGHTS SINCE THE AERITALIA FLIGHT TEST OPERATION IS LOCATED THERE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE ELECTIONS, AND TO KEEP AS LOW A PROFILE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST, THE GOI RECOMMENDED TO AERITALIA

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THAT AN ALTERNATE BASE BE FOUND. THE IAF AND AERITALIA HAVE

NOW SUGGESTED THE USE OF AVIANO AB SINCE IT IS FAIRLY REMOTE, HAS GOOD FACILITIES AND SUPPORTS A LARGE NUMBER OF TRANSIENT AIRCRAFT FOR NATO EXERCISES.

3. IT IS ENVISIONED THAT ONE F-104S AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO AERITALIA WOULD ARRIVE AT AVIANO ON 12 JULY WITH FLIGHTS BEGINNING ON 14 JULY. APPROXIMATELY TWELVE FLIGHTS ARE PLANNED AND ASSUMING GOOD WEATHER, THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE ON THE BASE ABOUT ONE WEEK. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT AERITALIA WILL PAY ALL EXPENSES AND THERE WILL BE NO COST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE NAMES, PASSPORT NUMBER AND BIRTH DATES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA PILOTS ARE AS FOLLOWS. BOTH PASSPORTS WILL HAVE ENTRY DOCUMENTS SEPARATE FROM PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE ITALIAN CONSULATE IN LOS ANGELES.

T.P. TINGMFA-533599 11 MAY 1942

T.H. WU MFA-533598 17 DEC 1928

4. IN REGARD TO THE USE OF AVIANO AB FOR THIS FLIGHT TEST EVALUATION, THE CHIEF MAAG HAS BEEN ASKED BY ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO DETERMINE OF THERE WOULD BE ANY U.S. OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE BASE FOR THIS PURPOSE. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF U.S. INTERESTS IN ITALY, EMBASSY SUPPORTS GOI REQUEST. AS THERE ARE BROADER POLICY ISSUES INVOLVED HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PERMIT REPLY TO ITALIANS WITHIN SHORT TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE ARRIVAL CHINESE TEAM.

5. FOR USCUNCEUR/USAFE: PLEASE ADVISE ACTION ADDRESSEES WHETHER OR NOT THE PLANNED OPERATION CAN BE ACCOMMODATED AT AVIANO DURING THE TIME PROPOSED. VOLPE

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